

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 4-9 are amended. Claims 2 and 3 are canceled.

In particular, claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter originally recited in claims 2 and 3. Accordingly, claims 2 and 3 are canceled, and claims 4-9 are amended to be consistent with the amendments made to claim 1.

Reconsideration in light of the foregoing claim amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-8, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,465,806 to Kubota et al. ("Kubota")¹; and rejects claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kubota. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The Office Action asserts that Kubota discloses or renders obvious the subject matter recited in claims 1-11. However, Kubota does not disclose or suggest the first conductive layer formed on a substrate, and the first conductive layer entirely overlapping the contact hole and the second conductive layer partially overlapping the contact pole in plan view, as recited in claim 1.

Kubota discloses a connection structure 100 including a first conductive layer 11, an interlayer insulative layer 12, and a second conductive layer 13. See Figs. 1A and 1B, and col. 6, lines 14-19. The first conductive layer 11 is connected to the second conductive layer 13 through an opening 12A formed in the interlayer insulative layer 12. See col. 6, lines 17-19. The opening 12A may be partially covered by the first conductive layer 11 or 73, and entirely covered by the second conductive layer 13 or 74. See Fig. 12 and col. 11,

¹ It is understood that the reference is U.S. Patent No. 6,465,806, not 6,600,546. The Patent No. 6,600,546 is issued to Ahn et al., which is not disclosed in an Information Disclosure Statement or listed in the Form PTO-892 attached to the Office Action.

lines 7-21. The first layer 11 is formed on a substrate 8, and the second layer 13 is formed on the first layer 11 opposite to the substrate 8. See Fig. 3 and col. 7, lines 16-29.

In view of the above, Kubota only discloses completely covering the opening 12A by the second conductive layer 13 or 74 that is formed over the first conductive layer 11 or 73. Kubota does not disclose or suggest that the opening 12A is completely covered by the first conductive layer 11 or 73 that is formed on the substrate 8. Therefore, Kubota does not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 1, and claims 4-11 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) or 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested. The rejected claims are 1-8, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e).

The Office Action rejects claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Kubota in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,828,042 to Imanishi ("Imanishi"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Imanishi discloses a device that allows both positive and negative electrical charges to be injected and transported. See col. 7, lines 6-16. Imanishi does not disclose or suggest a first conductive layer formed on a substrate, the first conductive layer entirely overlapping a contact hole and a second conductive layer partially overlapping the contact hole in plan view, as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Imanishi does not supply the subject matter lacking in Kubota.

For at least the above reasons, Kubota and Imanishi do not disclose or suggest the subject matter recited in claim 1, and claims 12 and 13 depending therefrom. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 4-13 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Gang Luo
Registration No. 50,559

JAO:GXL/sqb

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OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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